

May 19, 1950

Doctor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh,

I am at present engaged in working up the outline for a course in microbiological genetics which I am supposed to give here this coming summer. There will be no laboratory attached to it. This will be added when it is given in the regular spring session. What I would greatly appreciate having from you is a set of notes, taken perhaps by one of your students and/or any mimeographed material issued during the course which would help me in getting at your ideas in organizing the course and comparing it with what I have in mind here. I hope this will not be too burdensome to you.

Things are going along rather well here. We have managed to keep ourselves amused with the general bitchiness of nature. I had hoped to see you at one of the Chicago meetings but I missed the last one and apparently they are not having any more, or at least I haven't heard of them. There are a few things which have come up which I would like to discuss with you. I haven't written to you about the lactose problem primarily because we have been teetering for a long time on the edge of deciding the enzymatic details involved, but have not as yet quite effectively done the right experiments. The basic thing we are worrying about at present is that if one fractionates a lactose-adapted cell, ONPG-ase activity does not follow lactase activity. It appears as if there are two enzymes, one of which can split ONPG and lactose, whereas the other can split only lactose. The crucial evidence of clean-cut separation has not thus far been obtained. Both of these stupid enzymes are highly unstable and difficult to work with.

Sincerely yours,

SS:mb

S. Spiegelman